

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049610
ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 NSC-05 ISO-00 SIG-03 /012 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:AF/E:KPGARLAND

APPROVED BY:AF:HARROD

NSC:RGATES

-----041550 260437Z /64

R 251132Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 9090

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 0851 ACTION SEC STATE INFO
MOGADISCIO NAIROBI USUN FEB 22

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0851

AF FOR HARROP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, ET, US

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH ETHIOPIAN FONMIN

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 0822, B. NAIROBI 2628 (NOTAL)

1. HUMAN RIGHTS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DISCUSSION ON FEB 18 BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN FONMIN AND THE AARON DEL. DEP. ASST. SECY. HARROP POINTED OUT THAT ASSURANCE OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND OF CONGRESS, WHICH IS BEING APPLIED ON GLOBAL BASIS. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR EFFORTS MADE BY EPMG TO CARRY OUT LONG OVERDUE REFORMS BENEFITTING POORER ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY. AT SAME TIME US LAMENTS LEVEL OF VIOLENCE THAT COMES WITH THESE EFFORTS. EVEN SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN LIKE TSONGAS AND BOKER HAD TEMPERED THEIR POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRES. ON ETHIOPIA WITH CRITICISM OF RED TERROR CAMPAIGN, AND IT WAS WITH SUCH CONSIDERATION IN MIND THAT US ABSTAINED ON IBRD LOAN LAST YEAR. US DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN DOMESTIC CONCERNS OF OTHER GOVTS BUT HUMAN RIGHTS VALUES WERE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED UNDER UN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AEGIS AND WE FELT AN OBLIGATION TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE FELT US CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CAMPAIGN WOULD CONTINUE.

2. MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING OF SWEEPING CHANGES THAT ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY WAS UNDERGOING, WHICH NECESSARILY AROUSED STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG SOME CLASSES. THERE WERE KILLINGS ON BOTH SIDES, AND WHILE EPMG ANXIOUS TO STOP KILLINGS AND RESTORE PEACE, GOVT'S CURRENT MEASURES WERE JUSTIFIABLE, GIVEN COMPLEXITY OF SITUATION.

3. FELLEKE ADDED THAT EPMG WAS ATTEMPTING TO AVOID CIVIL WAR AND RESTORE AUTHORITY OVER THOSE OPOSED TO REVOLUTION'S GOALS. BROAD MASSES SUPPORTED REVOLUTION. IF THEY DID NOT, REVOLUTION COULD NOT SURVIVE. ONLY FEUDAL REMNANTS OFFERING FORCIBLE RESISTANCE.

4. AARON SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS HELPFUL TO LEARN OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS EPMG FACED, CONCEPT OF TERROR

AND COUNTER-TERROR IS ANATHEMA TO AMERICANS. ACCORDINGLY,
SUCH ACTIONS COULD BE EXPECTED TO TROUBLE BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP FOR SOME TIME TO COME. AT SAME TIME
HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF REVOLUTION WERE FEATURES WITH
WHICH US WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY.

5. EMBASSY PREPARING FULL MEMCON OF MEETING WITH
FELLEKE. MATHERON. UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE049610
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/E:KPGARLAND
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780088-0905
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780212/aaaaajsk.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 99e521cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 822, 78 NAIROBI 2628
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3472492
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH ETHIOPIAN FONMIN
TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, ET, US, (AARON, DAVID), (HARROP, WILLIAM), (FELEKE GEDLE-GIORGIS)
To: ABU DHABI BAGHDAD MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99e521cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014